

REVISED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
DATED APRIL 9, 2020

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND DRAFT WASTE DISCHARGE
REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL WASTE DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED
LANDS WITHIN THE CENTRAL COAST REGION**

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Central Coast Water Board), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Control Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for waste discharge requirements regulating the discharge of agricultural waste from irrigated lands within the Central Coast Region, "Agricultural Order for Discharges to Irrigated Lands" (Agricultural Order 4.0). The Central Coast Water Board has also prepared the Draft Agricultural Order 4.0. Both documents are available for public review and comment.

The public review period for the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0 is from February 21, 2020 until June 20 ~~April 6~~, 2020. During the public review period, Central Coast Water Board staff will hold public workshops on the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0; staff will provide notice at least 14 ~~40~~-days prior to the workshops.

The proposed project (Draft Agricultural Order 4.0) is the issuance of a permit regulating waste discharges from irrigated lands throughout the central coastal region. The purpose of Agricultural Order 4.0 is to protect and restore beneficial uses and achieve water quality objectives specified in the Basin Plan for commercial irrigated agricultural areas in the central coast region. The proposed project would replace the existing permit regulating agricultural discharges (Agricultural Order 3.0).

The Draft EIR identified potentially significant environmental impacts to agricultural resources.

Document Availability

Electronic copies of the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0 can be obtained from the Central Coast Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.html. Hardcopies of the Draft EIR and Draft Ag. Order are available at the Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Submission of Written Comments

Written comments are due June 20 ~~April 6~~, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. and may be submitted via email to AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov with "Comments on Draft EIR" or "Comments on Draft Ag Order 4.0" in the subject line. While email submittal is preferred, we will accept written comments at: Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), Central Coast Water Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PENDING GENERAL ORDERS

Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287, as explained in http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/exparte.pdf. Any communications between interested persons and board members (other than at a noticed board meeting where Agricultural Order 4.0 is on the agenda or submitted as a comment letter in compliance with this or another public notice) must be disclosed by the interested person within seven working days of the communication. A sample disclosure form is available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/forms/docs/central_coast_disclosure.pdf.

Pursuant to the Central Coast Water Board's direction on January 31, 2020, ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board meeting at which the proposed Agricultural Order 4.0 is scheduled for Board action. If the Central Coast Water Board does not take action during the scheduled meeting date, the ex parte communications prohibition will be lifted. The prohibition on ex parte communications will be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. At this time, the Board meeting at which the proposed Agricultural Order 4.0 will be considered for Board action has not been scheduled.

FUTURE NOTICES

During the public review period the Central Coast Water Board staff will hold public workshops on the Draft EIR and Draft Agricultural Order 4.0. Staff will provide notice of these workshops at least ~~14~~ 10-days prior. Any change in the date, time and place of the workshops will be noticed on the automated email list for the Irrigated Lands Program and posted on the Central Coast Water Board's website. To subscribe to the automated email list, please visit the Central Coast Water Board's website at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg3_subscribe.html and choose "Agricultural Discharges" and "CEQA – Agricultural Order 4.0, March 2020."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, visit the Central Coast Regional Board's Agricultural Order Renewal website

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/ag_order4_renewal.html or contact the Irrigated Lands Program ILRP at (805) 549-3148 or at AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov.